

Company A was first commanded by Capt. R. M. McKinney, who had been one of the Professors at the N. C. Military Institute. Before the regiment was fully organized he was made Colonel of the 15th Regiment and S. S. Kirkland was made Captain.

Company B, Capt. R. F. Webb; then Capt. W. K. Parrish. The men were mostly from Orange County.

Company C, Capt. W. G. Freeland, from Orange County.

Company D, Capt. S. McD. Tate. The men were mostly from Burke County, some from Catawba and McDowell.

Company E, Capt. I. E. Avery, with men from Burke, Mitchell and Yancey counties.

Company F, from Alamance, Capt. J. W. Wilson.

Company G, from Rowan, Capt. J. A. Craige.

Company H, from Caswell, Capt. A. A. Mitchell.

Company I, from Wake, Capt. R. W. York.

Company K, from Alamance, Capt. J. W. Lea.

After the first organization many changes were made, and, from time to time during the war, a great many recruits were enlisted from many other counties and assigned to the different companies; and it is supposed that, from first to last, there were perhaps as many as 2,000 men that belonged to the regiment. The men were all mustered in "*for the war*," and this regiment was organized as one of the ten regiments called for to serve during the war and was always known as the 6th N. C. State Troops.

When the regiment was reported as "*ready for service*," a day was fixed for our departure for the seat of war. On the appointed day, a great many people from the surrounding counties came in to bid "*good-by*" to their sons, their brothers, their fathers, their husbands. It was a sad day—I will not attempt to recall or to describe its scenes. *The Southern Soldier Volunteer's Farewell!*—no artist can picture it. But, trying as it was to bid farewell under such circumstances, yet not one of the thousand flinched.

When the *roll-call* was sounded and the command "*fall-in*" was given, the tears were brushed from their eyes; they took their places in the line, and as their names were called each one firmly answered, "*here*,"—here, ready to leave home and dear ones—ready to do, to dare, to suffer, and, if need be, to die, in defence of the rights which, by the Constitution, belong to me and my fellow-citizens, and to my State, and the States that are confederated with her—ready to resist and, if possible, drive back the armed invasion being made by troops from Northern States, arrogating to themselves that they are "the United States;" forgetting that by the terms of the laws and ordinances by which they came into and adopted the Constitution of the United States, their States had no right to attempt the coercion or subjugation of any other States.

With such convictions and such patriotic motives, the men of the 6th Regiment, N. C. Troops, were banded together; and assured of the justness of their cause, confiding in their leaders, and with well-grounded hopes of success, started "*in for the war*."

Taking the cars at Company Shops, we were carried to Raleigh and stopped there for a few days, during which we were called on to act as escort at the funeral of Governor Ellis. Leaving Raleigh, we were carried by way of Weldon to Petersburg and then to Richmond. We stopped there for a day, awaiting transportation, camping at the old Fair Ground. President Davis reviewed the regiment, making a short speech to us. From Richmond we were carried, by Gordonsville, to Manassas, and thence by way of the Manassas Gap R. R. to Strasburg, from which point we marched hurriedly to Winchester. Halting for a short while in the streets of Winchester, we heard all sorts of rumors as to the expected attack by the enemy.

Here our men first experienced that kind, patriotic hospitality, which made famous the noble women of the army-stricken sections of our country. As the two armies, for four years, swayed back and forth, leaving them within the lines of first one and then the other of the contending armies,